

GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON GOVERNOR

JEFFERSON CITY 65102 August 31, 2011

P.O. Box 720 (573) 751-3222

Craig Fugate, Administrator Federal Emergency Management Agency 500 C Street, SW Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

As you are aware, Missouri has experienced multiple disasters since the start of the year. Beginning with tornadoes on New Year's Eve, historic snowfall in February, record flooding along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and spring tornadoes in St. Louis, Sedalia and Joplin, significant state and local resources have been devoted to responding to these disasters. Recovery from each of those disasters is ongoing, and I have tasked state officials to work closely with your agency to ensure that appropriate and timely resources are available to those communities impacted by the devastation.

Working together, we have made great progress. At the state level, we have exercised strong fiscal discipline and undertaken proactive steps to meet the state's obligations to help local communities recover and rebuild. But Missouri communities are counting on significant support from the federal government as well to fund their disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts.

On August 26, FEMA circulated an Intergovernmental Advisory which indicated that the agency would be delaying funds for long-term recovery and reconstruction projects. In this advisory, FEMA indicated that funding restrictions are necessary to ensure that resources are available to provide emergency assistance for ongoing disasters, such as Hurricane Irene. This advisory has caused significant confusion and concern about which recovery projects in Missouri will continue, and which projects might be affected or delayed.

Here in Missouri, we will continue to pursue proactive solutions to disaster management. But we must work together – openly, transparently and accountably – at the local, state and federal levels to fund these rebuilding and recovery efforts.

Therefore, as Governor of Missouri, I request that you identify the specific disaster recovery and rebuilding projects in Missouri that will be immediately affected by FEMA's funding restrictions; which Missouri disaster recovery and rebuilding projects will be delayed; and which Missouri disaster recovery and rebuilding projects will be unaffected.

In Missouri's times of need, FEMA has proven itself to be a strong, capable partner. I write today in a spirit of partnership and cooperation to ensure that we can continue to work together to help our communities recover and rebuild in the months ahead.

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I look forward to your timely response to this request for clarification on an issue of vital importance not only to the people of Missouri, but to all Americans who want to see these communities recover and prosper.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon

Governor